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Listing of Claims

1. (amended twice) A printer having a plurality of print media paths therethrough, said printer further comprising:
 - (1) a printer device;
 - (2) a first print media path that carries a sheet of print media from a sheet pickup mechanism to the printer device;
 - (3) a second print media path that carries the sheet from the printer device to a sheet exit opening;
 - (4) a third print media path that carries the sheet from the sheet exit opening back to the printer device;
 - (5) a housing having:
 - (a) at least one sheet entry opening through which a sheet can be delivered to the first print media path, and
 - (b) at least one sheet exit opening through which the sheet can be dispensed from the housing after said sheet travels, in a first flow direction, past the printer device and a sheet diverter;
 - (6) the sheet diverter having a first operating position for allowing the sheet to pass, in the first flow direction, and a second operating position for diverting the sheet while said sheet travels in a second flow direction toward the printer device; and
 - (7) a sheet pickup mechanism having a first operating position wherein said sheet pickup mechanism picks up the sheet from a sheet dispensing tray, and a second operating position different from the first operating position, wherein said sheet pickup mechanism transports the sheet toward the printer device to serve ~~as a part of a duplex printing path when the sheet travels in the second flow direction toward the printer device.~~
2. (original) The printer of claim 1 wherein the housing has at least two sheet entry openings through which a sheet can be delivered for transport to the printer device.
3. (original) The printer of claim 1 wherein the housing has three sheet entry openings through

which a sheet can be delivered for transport to the printer device.

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously amended) The printer of claim 1 wherein the sheet diverter is pivotally mounted so that, in its first operating position, a sheet traveling in the first flow direction, will not collide with said diverter and so that, in its second operating position, a sheet traveling in the second flow direction will collide with said sheet diverter and be diverted toward the printer device.

6. (original) The printer of claim 1 further comprising a sheet collection tray that services the sheet exit opening.

7. (original) The printer of claim 1 further comprising two sheet dispensing trays that are each serviced by a separate and distinct sheet pickup mechanism.

8. (original) The printer of claim 1 wherein a second sheet entry opening, the printer device and the sheet exit opening are on substantially the same horizontal plane such that a sheet passing over said horizontal plane is not bent more than about 30°.

9-16 (cancelled)

17. (twice amended) A method for increasing the versatility of a printer, said method comprising:

(1) locating a printer device in a printer housing;

(2) providing a plurality of media paths that pass through the printer housing and printer device;

(3) providing at least one sheet entry opening through which a sheet can be delivered to the printer device;

(4) providing the housing with at least one sheet exit opening for (1) dispensing a sheet from the housing when said sheet travels past the sheet diverter in a first flow direction and (2) permitting a sheet to travel past the sheet diverter in a second flow direction leading back toward the printer device;

(5) positioning a sheet diverter in the housing such that, while in a first operating position, the sheet diverter can facilitate passage of the sheet out of the sheet exit opening and such that, while in a second operating position, the sheet diverter can direct the sheet in a second flow direction toward the printer device; and

(6) positioning a sheet pickup mechanism in the housing such that, in a first operating position, said sheet pickup mechanism picks up the sheet from a sheet dispensing tray, drives a sheet toward the printer device and such that, in a second operating position different from the first operating position, said sheet pickup mechanism transports the sheet toward the printer device, thereby serving serves as a part of a duplex printing path.

18. (twice amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the sheet pickup mechanism (1) operates from a first operating position wherein said sheet pickup mechanism includes a roller that is rotated in a first direction that removes a sheet from a sheet dispensing tray and directs said sheet toward the printer, and (2) operates from a second operating position wherein the roller in said sheet pickup mechanism is rotated in a second direction that carries the sheet over a portion of a duplex printing path through the printer device.

19. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein successive sheets of paper are introduced into the printer from a sheet dispensing tray, carried through a printer device and delivered to a sheet collection tray in a simplex printing operation.

20. (cancelled)

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